

Appl. No. 10/552,979
Atty. Docket No. Z-7882Q
Amdt. Dated March 7, 2011
Reply to Ex Parte Quayle Action of February 9, 2011
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A bristle cluster stuffing tool ram configured to press a strip-shaped holding element into a borehole that is arranged in a brush head and that serves for accommodating a bristle cluster, the ram having an end face comprising:
 - a pressing surface configured to press in the holding element, pressing surface having a cross-sectional area bounded by broad longitudinal sides and face sides of the ram;
 - wherein the pressing surface includes:
 - end face regions that penetrate into the material of the brush head when the holding element is pressed in; and
 - a central face region that penetrates into the borehole, the central face region being wider than the end face regions as measured between the broad longitudinal sides of the ram, a first broad longitudinal side of the ram extending between ends of the face sides of the ram and a second broad longitudinal side of the ram opposite the first broad longitudinal side, wherein the second longitudinal broad longitudinal side is shorter than the first broad longitudinal side.
2. (Previously Presented) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 1, wherein the central face region is disposed between the end face regions.
3. (Previously presented) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 2, wherein both broad longitudinal sides of the ram have an enlarged projecting area that define portions of the central face region of the pressing surface.

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4. (Previously presented) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 2, wherein a transition to the enlarged projecting area comprises a step in form of a narrowed face side such that a width of the end face region essentially corresponds to a width of the holding element.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Previously presented) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 3, wherein the enlarged projecting area comprises a projection of rectangular shape.
7. (Previously Presented) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 2, wherein the total enlarged projecting area comprises a projection of trapezoidal shape.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously presented) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 1, having a constant cross section along its length.
10. (Previously presented) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 1, wherein the ram widens in a wedge shape beginning at the pressing surface and moving in a longitudinal direction.
11. (Previously Presented) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 10, wherein the wedge shape has a point defining an included angle of 75°.
12. (Previously presented) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 2, wherein the enlarged projecting area exceeds the size of the surface of the holding element to be pressed in and acted upon by the ram by between 10 % and 40 %.

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13. (Previously Presented) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 1,

comprising a toothbrush bristle cluster stuffing tool.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 1,

wherein one of the broad longitudinal sides of the ram is sized to be narrower than a diameter of a borehole into which the ram is configured to stuff bristles.

16. (Previously presented) The bristle cluster stuffing tool ram according to Claim 12,

wherein the enlarged projecting area projects relative to the width of the respective holding element to be pressed in by about 25%.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a brush, the method

comprising

providing a brush head defining bristle cluster boreholes;

providing a stuffing tool ram with opposed broad longitudinal sides and a pressing surface that includes a central region and two end regions, the central region having a width as measured between the broad longitudinal sides greater than a width of the end regions, a first broad longitudinal side of the ram disposed between ends of face sides of the ram and a second broad longitudinal side of the ram opposite the first broad longitudinal side, wherein the second longitudinal broad longitudinal side is shorter than the first broad longitudinal side; and

with the ram, pressing strip-shaped holding elements into engagement with corresponding bristle clusters and into corresponding boreholes with the end regions of the ram pressing surface penetrating into the material of the brush head as the central region extends into the borehole, thereby anchoring the bristle cluster in the borehole.

18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17 comprising a method of manufacturing a toothbrush, wherein the brush head is a toothbrush's head.
19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17 wherein pressing the holding element comprises pressing the holding elements into corresponding boreholes inclined relative to a longitudinal axis of the ram.
20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the width of the central region is between 10 percent and 80 percent greater than the width of the end regions.
21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the width of the central region is between 25 percent and 50 percent greater than the width of the end regions.
22. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a toothbrush, the method comprising
 - providing a brush head defining bristle cluster boreholes;
 - providing a stuffing tool ram with opposed broad longitudinal sides and a pressing surface that includes a central region and two end regions, the central region having a width as measured between the broad longitudinal sides greater than a width of the end regions, a first broad longitudinal side of the ram disposed along a first line extending between ends of face sides of the ram and a second broad longitudinal side of the ram extending outward relative a second line extending between ends of the face sides of the ram such that the central regions includes an enlarged projecting area is disposed on one of the broad longitudinal sides of the ram; and
 - with the ram, pressing strip-shaped holding elements into engagement with corresponding bristle clusters and into corresponding boreholes with the end regions of the ram pressing surface penetrating into the material of the brush head as the

central region extends into the borehole, thereby anchoring the bristle cluster in the borehole, wherein the boreholes are inclined relative to a longitudinal axis of the ram.

23. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing a brush, the method comprising
 - providing a brush head defining bristle cluster boreholes;
 - providing a stuffing tool ram with opposed broad longitudinal sides and a pressing surface that includes a central region and two end regions, the central region having a width as measured between the broad longitudinal sides greater than a width of the end regions, a first broad longitudinal side of the ram disposed along a first line extending between ends of face sides of the ram and a second broad longitudinal side of the ram extending outward relative to a second line such that the central region includes an enlarged projecting area disposed on only one of the broad longitudinal sides of the ram; and
 - with the ram, pressing strip-shaped holding elements into engagement with corresponding bristle clusters and into corresponding boreholes with the end regions of the ram pressing surface penetrating into the material of the brush head as the central region extends into the borehole, thereby anchoring the bristle cluster in the borehole, wherein the boreholes are inclined relative to a longitudinal axis of the ram.